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IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A method for enhancing the sterilization of a lumen, said lumen having at least a first end and a second end, said method comprising:

enclosing said lumen and a container in a chamber, wherein said container has at least one interface on a wall of said container, wherein said container does not contain germicide, and wherein said lumen is placed across said at least one interface such that the first end of the lumen is in the container and the second end of the lumen is in the chamber;

introducing a germicide into said chamber;

creating a higher pressure in said chamber than in said container; and

flowing said germicide from said chamber into said container through said lumen.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising evacuating said chamber before introducing said germicide into said chamber.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising evacuating said chamber after flowing said germicide from said chamber into said container through said lumen.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising venting said chamber after flowing said germicide from said chamber into said container through said lumen.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said germicide comprises hydrogen peroxide.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said interface comprises at least one opening.

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7. (Previously presented) A method for enhancing the sterilization of a lumen, said lumen having at least a first end and a second end, said method comprising:

enclosing said lumen and a container in a chamber, wherein said container has at least one interface on a wall of said container, wherein said container does not contain germicide, and wherein said lumen is placed across said at least one interface such that the first end of the lumen is in the container and the second end of the lumen is in the chamber;

introducing a germicide into said chamber;

creating a higher pressure in said chamber than in said container;

flowing said germicide from said chamber into said container through said lumen; and

wherein said interface comprises at least one opening which comprises a material that is permeable to said germicide, whereby a contact area between said interface and said lumen is contacted with said germicide.

8. (Previously presented) A method for enhancing the sterilization of a lumen, said lumen having at least a first end and a second end, said method comprising:

enclosing said lumen and a container in a chamber, wherein said container has at least one interface on a wall of said container, wherein said container does not contain germicide, and wherein said lumen is placed across said at least one interface such that the first end of the lumen is in the container and the second end of the lumen is in the chamber;

introducing a germicide into said chamber;

creating a higher pressure in said chamber than in said container;

flowing said germicide from said chamber into said container through said lumen; and

adjusting said at least one opening.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 6, further comprising evacuating said container through a communication port in said container, wherein said communication port is different from said at least one opening.

Claims 10-13 (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) A system for sterilizing a lumen, said lumen having at least a first end and a second end, said system comprising:

a container defining an enclosed volume with at least one interface on a wall

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of said container, wherein said enclosed volume does not contain germicide;

a chamber containing said container, wherein said lumen is placed across said at least one interface such that the first end of the lumen is in the container and the second end of the lumen is in the chamber;

at least one pump to evacuate the chamber and said container;

a source of germicide; and

wherein said at least one interface comprises at least one opening and said at least one opening comprises a material which is permeable to germicide generated from said source of germicide, wherein said material is located at least in a contact area between said at least one interface and said lumen.

Claim 15 (Canceled)

16. (Original) The system of Claim 13, wherein said at least one opening is adjustable.

Claims 17-44 (canceled)